Sermon:  **“What good is it for someone to say that he has faith if his actions do not prove it?”** (James 2.14)

Faith has a number of diff meanings

* Christianity – “I follow the Christian faith”
* A Creed – “this is the faith of our church”
* Trust – “I’ve got faith in you” TEXT refers to this latter.

One of the most enduring Church debates over the centuries: the relationship between faith and actions. We trust *God* for salvation, not anything *we* do or are. We cannot earn God’s love, our ticket to heaven, etc.

To stop here though is to misunderstand. Salvation is not simply a mental acceptance of what Jesus has done for us – Incarnation, Cross, Resurrection; that is only the beginning.

At the doctor’s surgery there is a difference between a diagnosis and the treatment for a cure.

The mental acceptance (trust) is acknowledging God’s diagnosis – human hearts are selfish.

What is the cure? It is to begin to love others before ourselves – which is what Jesus demonstrated.

James 2.1-4: Why would someone treat a rich person with great favour? To get something back? This is not the cure! The cure is to treat *all* with the same love and respect.

We all agree this, yet it is not easy to put that faith into action.

TEXT = what good is it for a patient to acknowledge the disease but ignore the cure?

**“if [faith] is alone and includes no actions, then it is dead”** (James 2.17) ie a faith that is only in the head is of no value to that person, or society, or even God.

Consider what you do that acts out your beliefs; this can vary according to time, ability, opportunities, energy, interests. Hence Friday Club, brown bags, Affordables Shop, bearing office in church, even what we do in our community, or how we treat neighbours, visitors, friends and family.

Truly trusting God means letting God transform us on the inside; this affects everything we do, say and are, and it that way ‘proves’ our faith. TEXT.